

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 00325 162036Z

62

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0325

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SHUM

SUBJECT: CHILE BEFORE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REFS: (A) STATE 008973; (B) SANTIAGO 0034; (C) USUN 24

1. DURING GENERAL CONVERSATION JAN 15, I ASKED FONMIN CARVAJAL ABOUT CHILEAN APPROACH TO FEB MEETING OF HRC, AND WHAT REACTION MIGHT BE TO NEUTRALLY WORDED, NONCONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR SOME TYPE OF INVESTIGATING MISSION IN CHILE.

2. CARVAJAL SAID CHILEAN OBSERVERS ATTENDING MEETING WILL BE HEADED BY SERGIO DIEZ (EX-SENATOR OF CONSERVATIVE NATIONAL PARTY, MEMBER OF CHILEAN DEL TO RECENT UNGA). TEAM WILL BE WELL PREPARED TO "REFUTE" REPORT OF OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON CHILE. CARVAJAL CITED THAT REPORT AS EXAMPLE OF CHILE'S BAD EXPERIENCE WITH INVESTIGATORY BODIES. SAID MEMBERS WERE KIND WHILE IN CHILE, THEN AFTER DEPARTING WROTE UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORT HIGHLY CRITICAL OF CHILEAN PRACTICES.

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 00325 162036Z

3. CARVAJAL CONTINUED THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAS TAKEN

GENERAL POSITION AGAINST ALLOWING ANY MORE SUCH BODIES TO ENTER CHILE UNLESS THERE IS GUARANTEE THEY WILL BE FAIR. CARVAJAL ALSO REFERRED TO RELEVANT STATEMENT IN PINOCHET'S DEC 31 SPEECH (REF B) AND INDICATED GOC WILL INSIST THAT SUCH BODIES ALSO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN USSR AND CUBA.

4. COMMENT. CARVAJAL'S ATTITUDE TOWARD RECEIVING NEW INVESTIGATING BODIES IN CHILE WAS HARDER THAN PRES PINOCHET'S CAREFULLY WORDED STATEMENT DEC 31. ACCORDINGLY, IN PREPARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF ITEM ON CHILE IN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING, PROPONENTS OF A MODERATE, NON-PREJUDICIAL RESOLUTION INVOLVING ANOTHER ON-THE-SPOT STUDY SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT CHILEANS WILL PERMIT A NEW COMMISSION TO ENTER COUNTRY. I RAISED WITH CARVAJAL THE LIKELY ALTERNATIVE--A CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION SPEARHEADED BY SOVIET BLOC MEMBERS--BUT CARVAJAL DID NOT REACT. CONSEQUENTLY, SUGGEST THAT DELEGATIONS INTERESTED IN A MODERATE RESOLUTION GET TO WORK EARLY ON CHILEANS TO EXPLORE PROSPECTS FOR A STUDY GROUP, IF THAT IS INDICATED. PERHAPS SUCH A GROUP WOULD NOT HAVE TO VISIT CHILE. WE WOULD BE PREPARED AT PROPER MOMENT TO WEIGH IN AGAIN FROM THIS END IF THE PROSPECTS FOR A NON-PREJUDICIAL RESOLUTION SHOULD TURN OUT TO BE PROMISING.
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